

money away from those school boards that did their own, and giving it to those that did not take care of their weatherization program like they should. I could go on a long time, but I think you've listened long enough. I'd just ask you to support the kill motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the kill motion. I do this in kind of a rare fashion because probably if I had a computer printout on my desk, as we oftentimes do, showing net inflow of funds into my district under the Wesely bill versus what were to happen if the kill motion were to pass, probably I'm speaking against money flowing into my district, because Papillion-LaVista School District receives favorable consideration under the equalization portion of our state aid proposal. On the other hand, we are one of those school districts that has done a fairly good job of keeping our buildings efficient. We have done that by taking advantage of the school weatherization program in the past. So we don't have a whole lot yet to gain from this program continuing, and we may be better off if the bill...if the money were to flow back into equalization. But I feel like that is really not what we should be about here as state senators, is looking just at net inflow of funds back to our district. I sat on a local school board back at Papillion for two years. I watched the school weatherization program operate. I was very pleased with what it did and the things we were able to do with it in our district. Just as an example, we had in our high school an incredibly inefficient heating system, a rooftop system. Not only was it energy inefficient, it was also dangerous because the pilot light was going out and dangerous gases were passing into the school building. We, as a school board, did not have the money to fix this project in one year. It was about a \$500,000 project. So it continued. We continued to try to fix it. We continued to try to patch it together year, after year, after year, spending repair money on it, paying horrendous energy bills to get this building heated. We put in an application for a school weatherization project. We got it. We fixed it at once. We are now back in this district saving money. We are not paying these huge repair bills, nor are we paying these huge energy bills. The one thing I think you really need to realize, when looking at this weatherization program, is what criterion is used by